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TS 77871

#3

2 December 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR/PLANS (For Chief, NEA)

SUBJECT: Planning Board Discussion of Iran Policy

1. The Planning Board gave a first reading today to the Iran Policy Paper on which you commented yesterday.

2. Much of the discussion was on the oil question and how a settlement could be rapidly achieved that would start revenues coming to Iran. No new ideas emerged on this, or concrete suggestions beyond the paper. Defense wanted to put in something about [REDACTED] go along on the 50% share at least, but the general consensus seemed to be that the language should be left general so as to give Mr. Hoover maximum scope.

3. On military aid, I advanced all the amendments you proposed and spoke strongly for them. Defense and JCS both said they favored more aid, but stressed Iran's very limited ability to digest such aid, also the difficulty of fitting Iran into any coherent regional picture. I said that the need for military aid was immediate and went beyond purely military purposes to the basic point of getting a stable government with a secure power base.

4. The paper is now being referred to the Board Assistants, where it will be extensively shaken up. I think your amendments are virtually certain to be accepted, but the discussion should bring out more concrete figures on military aid possibilities, and also refine the potential issue between aid limited to digestion and aid that is ready to stretch that for the sake of credit and power to the Shah and the Army. Please let me know whether you would like to sit in on these discussions. I will keep you informed in any case.

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NSC Board Assistant

WPB/vcl

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